MARINE AIR CONTROL SQUADRON 1
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 11
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, AIRCRAFT, FMF, PACIFIC
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

JRM/rdd
A17-6
31 Mar 1958

From: First Lieutenant James R. MILLER 066552/7302 USMCR
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Squadron 1

Subj: Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Private MARTIN D. SCHRAND 1639694/6711 USMC at about 1900 hours on 5 January 1958

Ref: (a) Chapter II, III, IV, and V, 1955 Naval Supplement to the Manual for Courts-Martial, 1951
(b) Letter from Staff Legal Officer to CO, MAG-11 196/ty A17-5/1 of 30 January 1958

Encl: (1) CO, MACS-1 appointing order of 6 January 1958
(2) Statement of LCDR C. B. WALDRIDGE USN
(3) Statement of 1stLt. H. B. CHERRIE II USMCR SDO MACS-1
(4) Statement of Cpl R. L. ROWE USMC Cpl. of the Guard
(5) Statement of HM3 R. A. HOLT USN
(6) Copy Certificate of Death
(7) Statement of W2 F. H. MATTIESEN USN
(8) Photographs taken at scene of shooting
(9) Statement of Sergeant H. R. GODFREY 1453334/1371 USMC (Sgt. of the Guard)
(10) Statement of the Medical Officer of the Day, Station Hospital, Navy #3002

1. Preliminary Statement.

a. In accordance with enclosure (1), and in accordance with reference (a), an investigation was started on 6 January 1958 to inquire into the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Private Martin D. SCHRAND.

b. The investigation was conducted in the following manner:

(1) The interviewing and/or procuring of written statements from available witnesses and such other persons whose testimony appeared to yield information as to the death or related events.

(2) The interviewing and/or procuring of written statements from organizations involved after the death.

c. No persons were designated as interested parties to the investigation.

d. In accordance with reference (b) this investigation was received by MACS-1 in the field on the island of Corregidor, P. I. on or about 13 February 1958.

e. Due to the frequent redeployment of this unit in the field prior to and during Operation STRONGBACK, the clerical processes and correspondence with this investigation having been slow and of limited availability resulted in unavoidable delay in the collection of evidence, drafting and submission of the report.

2. Finding of Fact.

a. That on or about 1900 hours on 5 January 1958 in the area of the carrier pier, Naval Air Station, Cubi, Point, Philippine Islands, Private Martin D. SCHRAND 1639694/6711 USMC was fatally wounded with a discharge from a riot-type shotgun, under the circumstances listed below.

b. At the above time and place the sentry on post at the crypto van, a Private First Class PERSONS, heard a shot from the area containing the parked motor vehicles and informed the Squadron Duty Officer 2ndLt. Hubert B. CHERRIE II USMCR and the Corporal of the Guard, Corporal Ronald L. ROWE USMC, by whom he had been inspected a minute or so before, in their inspection of the Area and Guard. (Encl 3&4).

c. Upon checking, the SDO and Cpl. of the Guard discovered Pvt. SCHRAND lying on his back in a manner similar to the Photograph (Encl 8) except the weapon was underneath him. Pvt. SCHRAND was lying in a pool of blood and wounded as set forth in (Encl 6).

d. The SDO notified Sick Bay from a telephone in the Crash Crew area and returned to the scene. (Encl 3)

e. At 1920 an ambulance driven by Robert A. HOLT, HM3 USN arrived at the scene and removed Pvt. SCHRAND to the Station Hospital. (Encl 5)

f. Death occured between 1920 and 1930 hours in the ambulance (Encl 5&6).

g. It is medical opinion of the Medical Officer of the Day that Pvt. SCHRAND was beyond aid from the moment of the shooting. (Encl 10) By interview of all persons involved, the investigator established that no definite form of first aid was applied due to the extreme nature of the wound.

h. Pvt. SCHRAND had been fully instructed in his duties and the Model 12 riot gun, having been on guard duty and attended guard school for at least two days previous. (Encl 4)

i. The MACS-1 guard was operating under verbal appointments at this time having recently debarked from an LST. There was no guard book or log that this investigation could find (Encl 4).

j. It was and is an established squadron policy that sentries on post carry their weapons with chambers empty, the safety on, and five (5) rounds in the cylinder. Under no circumstances were rounds to be injected unto the chamber unless the weapon was to be fired or under supervised instruction. In the interests of safety, permission had been extended for some sentries to carry the rounds in their pocket. (Encl 9)

k. The weapon at the scene was a Winchester Model 12 riot type shotgun No 982244 containing one spent round. This weapon does not have a sling and is illustrated in Encl (8).

l. Under extensive examination by Fred H. MATTHIESEN CHAVORD Tech W2 USN no discrepency in the weapon was revealed. (Encl 7).

m. There was no evidence discovered of criminal activity in this case. There was no evidence discovered of suicide. (Encl 2)

3. Opinions.

a. In the absence of any evidence of gross neglegence or intended self-inflection it is my opinion that Private Martin D. SCHRAND 1639694/6711 USMC died in the line of duty and not as a result of his own misconduct.

b. Pvt. SCHRAND was completely familiar with his duties and with the operation of the Model 12 riot type shotgun, and was in sound physical condition.

c. The wound was inflicted by the Winchester Model 12 riot type shotgun No. 982244 found at the scene.

d. The discharge of the riot gun was not due to malfunction.

e. Attempts to reconstruct the act of the shooting resulted in no opinion being formed as to the manner in which the weapon was fired.

f. No definite form of first aid treatment could have been employed nor was by the people present due to the nature of the wound.

4. Recommendation.

a. That continuing emphasis be exerted to acquaint all personnel with the instructions for standing guard duty and in handling the Model 12 riot gun.

b. While it had no effect on the death occurring in this case knowledge of the location of accessible telephones in the Guard area should be had by all persons concerned. (Encl 3)

c. That proper guard log and records be kept whenever possibile by the Sgt. and Cpl. of the Guard.

James R. Miller
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1stLt. USMCR